

IL, Fort Wayne, IN, and in Cleveland and Brecksville, OH. Her medical career also includes work at Parma Community General Hospital in Parma, OH, and Christ Hospital in Cincinnati. Besides serving as the Advanced Systems Dietician, Rebecca provides on-going tech support and training for nutrition employees, and also serves as a facilitator for many Goal Sharing teams within her department.

David Jewel, the chief of External Affairs for the Louis Stokes VA in Cleveland, has also served at VA medical centers in Ann Arbor, MI, and Cincinnati, OH. David has consistently led efforts to ensure that veterans are fully informed about the benefits entitled to them. He has led the effort to upgrade vital areas of communication within the VA, with a focus on minority veteran's affairs, community affairs programs and public relations. David has been the codirector of the Medical Center's Combined Federal Campaign for the past 4 years.

Mr. Speaker and colleagues, please join me in honor, recognition and gratitude to David and Rebecca Jewel, whose individual and united dedication to our Nation's veterans is framed by commitment, compassion, integrity and accomplishment. Their service and leadership has been a significant component that reflects the strength and quality within the VA, and is a brilliant example of service for anyone who will follow. I wish David and Rebecca Jewel an abundance of health, peace and happiness as they journey onward from here.

#### HONORING GAYE HYDE'S SERVICE TO CALIFORNIA'S EAST BAY COMMUNITY

**HON. FORTNEY PETE STARK**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, July 17, 2006*

Mr. STARK. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor Gaye Hyde, my lead caseworker in Fremont, CA, district office, who will be retiring on July 31, 2006.

Gaye has worked for me, and more importantly for the people of California's 13th Congressional District, for 31 years. I dare say that her level of commitment is hard—if not impossible—to match. I'm honored that she's stuck with me for so many years. But, it is my constituents who have been the real winners.

Gaye has presided over tens of thousands of cases herself and has trained every caseworker who has come and gone from my staff over the past 30 years.

She started handling constituent casework in the days before computers were used in the office. She had to type initial inquiries to agencies for assistance, have them mailed to Washington, DC for my approval, and then track their progress through written correspondence from various agencies and seldom returned phone calls. Typically, she took piles of letters home and fact checked and typed responses late into the night. She was always pushing to resolve cases and didn't feel there was time in the day to meet her standards or constituents' needs.

How times have changed. Today, many constituents e-mail their requests for assistance. Gaye is able to e-mail constituent liaison offices in a variety of agencies, and much of the work is done via the Internet. The process makes communication faster, provides better

accountability, and produces much less paper waste—all of which are great advancements.

What hasn't changed over time is the importance of the role of congressional caseworkers. These staff members get little of the glory, but are the key component for an effective Member of Congress.

Constituents who reach out for help from their Member of Congress usually are in great need. They are trying to file immigration documents for a loved one, obtain a lost Social Security check upon which their parent depends, or applying for a federal grant which could make or break their organization's ability to continue providing important services to the community.

With Gaye at the helm of my casework operation, I've never had to worry about my constituents being served—and served superbly. Her retirement is well deserved, but those of us lucky enough to work with her, and thousands of East Bay residents she's helped over the years, will miss her tremendously.

#### A TRIBUTE TO MARTIN RUBIN

**HON. ADAM B. SCHIFF**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, July 17, 2006*

Mr. SCHIFF. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the late Martin Rubin. Mr. Rubin will be greatly missed. The transportation engineering world lost a legend whose influence in the development of the Los Angeles Metro Rail and the San Francisco Bay Area Rapid Transit, BART, systems, among other critical transportation projects, continues to facilitate the commutes of residents in some of our nation's most expansive metropolitan areas.

A native of Brooklyn, New York, Martin Rubin entered into the United States Army following his graduation from City College of New York. In 1956, he joined Parsons Brinckerhoff, a 120-year-old international engineering firm based in New York City. After moving to Southern California in 1981, he worked indefatigably to expand the prestigious representation of Parsons Brinckerhoff to the western United States, and simultaneously managed a wide array of transportation projects.

Mr. Rubin's undeniably selfless dedication earned him the honor of being in charge of the Western region of Parsons Brinckerhoff in the 1980s, followed in 1990 by his selection as the president and chief operating officer of the firm's United States infrastructure arm. Always dedicated to service, he relinquished those titles to assume his duties in the development of the Los Angeles Metro Rail system where he oversaw the engineering and construction for the Blue Line, Green Line, and Red Line, as well as overseeing preliminary efforts on the Pasadena to Los Angeles Gold Line. He was subsequently honored by being named the chairman of Parsons Brinckerhoff in 1994, an honor that he held until 1997. His retirement in 2004 was a fitting end to his 48 years of distinguished service to his firm, and to the citizens of California.

I ask all Members of the House of Representatives to pause to honor a great man, Martin Rubin, who touched so many people through his deeds in life. He will be missed not only by his surviving wife and his four chil-

dren, but also by all of those who have benefited from the works to which he dedicated his life.

#### HONORING "MOTHER" RUTH VILLIA JONES

**HON. BARBARA LEE**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, July 17, 2006*

Ms. LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the extraordinary life and work of Ruth Villia Jones of Oakland, California. Known to most simply as Mother Ruth, she has been a leader, an activist, and an icon in the Oakland community for decades, providing care and guidance to countless others throughout her life, and on July 16, 2006, the friends and family of Mother Ruth will gather to celebrate this remarkable woman's 100th birthday.

Mother Ruth was born July 12, 1906 in Louisiana, soon after the great quake of San Francisco. She grew up during a time of extreme social and racial segregation, and learned about racial and gender discrimination from her family's experiences. These experiences shaped her resolve to challenge the status quo and begin her quest for social and human rights in the 1930s and as a Red Cross volunteer during World War II in the 1940s.

Throughout the 1950s, 1960s, and 1970s, Mother Ruth combined her deep spiritual commitment with her desire for social justice, becoming active in the civil rights movement and fighting to end racial discrimination in our country. She marched and worked with the Reverend Martin Luther King, Jr., Reverend Jesse Jackson, and the Reverend Cecil Williams. In the 1960s and 1970s Mother Ruth supported the work of a young group of African American activists, known as the Black Panthers, by joining them on picket lines, in the Free Breakfast Programs and Schools, eventually earning her the esteemed honor of "Mother" to these young men.

As "Mother Ruth," through her vision and activism, she has mentored and enriched the lives of many local leaders, such as Oakland Mayor Lionel Wilson, Congressman Ron Delums, and myself when I was becoming politically active in the 1970s. Working with her helped to instill in me not only a deep sense of community, but also a fundamental commitment to fighting for social equity and social justice throughout my life. She has been a mentor and a friend to me throughout most of my life, and I am deeply thankful to her for sharing with me her wisdom, her compassion, and her support.

Throughout the Bay Area, Mother Ruth is also known for helping to start the meals program at Glide Memorial Church, which continues to this day. In the 1980s and 1990s Ruth Villia Jones turned her energy and expertise to professional organizations, such as the Glide Foundation, the California Legislative Council for Older Americans, the Alameda County Advisory Commission on Aging, the Black Women Organized for Political Action, the Black Women Organized for Educational Development, the National Black Women's Resource Center, the National Association of Negro Business and Professional Women's Clubs to name a few. Through her various